

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing an aqueous peptide extract of maca, comprising enzymatically hydrolyzing proteins of ~~characterized in that it is conducted using a powder of ground maca tubers to form an aqueous peptide extract, in that it comprises at least one enzymatic hydrolysis step of the proteins, and in that the aqueous extract is then purified and purifying the aqueous peptide extract~~ by ultrafiltration.
2. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ hydrolysis is conducted with an amylase and protease mixture.
3. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing a hydrosoluble peptide extract of maca tubers as in claim 2, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the amylase/protease ratio varies between 50/50 and 90/10.
4. (Currently Amended) Method as in claim 1, any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the aqueous extract is then concentrated to remove insolubles.
5. (Currently Amended) Method as in claim 1, wherein ~~any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ ultrafiltration has a cut-off threshold of 10 kD.
6. (Currently Amended) Aqueous peptide extract of maca obtained using the method in claim 1, any of claims 1 to 5.
7. (Currently Amended) Aqueous peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, ~~characterized in that it has a~~ wherein the dry matter content is ~~of~~ between 1 and 300 g/l, ~~preferably between 2 and 10 g/l.~~

8. (Currently Amended) Method for preparing a solid peptide extract of maca, characterized in that the aqueous peptide extract as in claim 6, ~~claim 6 or 7~~, optionally concentrated and/or sterilised, is freeze-dried.

9. (Previously Presented) Solid peptide extract of maca obtained using the method as in claim 8.

10. (Currently Amended) Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the content of alpha amino nitrogen lies between 2 and 70 %.

11. (Currently Amended) Solid peptide extract of maca as in claim 9, wherein the ~~or 10, characterized in that it has the following~~ amino acid composition is of the following (as a weight percentage with respect to the total weight of the amino acids[()]):

Alanine	5-9 %
Arginine	15-20 %
Aspartic acid	8-12 %
Cystine-cysteine	< 2 %
Glutamic acid	9-15 %
Glycine	3-7 %
Histidine	1-6 %
Isoleucine	2-7 %
Leucine	4-9 %
Lysine	3-7 %
Methionine	1-5 %
Phenylalanine	4.9 %
Proline	< 1 %
Serine	2-8 %
Threonine	1-7 %
Tyrosine	1-7 %
Valine	4-10 %
Tryptophane	< 0.5 %

12. (Currently Amended) Peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, ~~any of claims 6 or 7 and 9 to 11~~, which can be used to stimulate the proliferation and growth of skin cells and more particularly of fibroblasts.

13. (Currently Amended) Peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, ~~any of claims 6 or 7 and 9 to 11~~, which can be used to stimulate the mitochondrial activity of skin cells and more particularly of the fibroblasts.

14. (Currently Amended) Cosmetic composition comprising ~~characterized in that it contains~~ a peptide extract of maca as in claim 6, ~~any of claims 6 or 7 and 9 to 11~~, and at least one cosmetically acceptable excipient.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing and or combating Cosmetic treatment method to prevent and/or combat skin ageing, consisting of ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ applying to the skin a composition as in claim 14.

16. (Currently amended) A method of combating ~~Cosmetic treatment method to combat~~ outside aggressions chosen from sun, tobacco, pollution and stress consisting of ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ applying to the skin a composition as in claim 14.

17 - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of an extract as in any of claims 6 or 7 and 9 to 11, as active agent to~~ A method of combating ~~combat~~ loss of tonicity and/or elasticity of the skin and/or to ~~combat~~ the onset of senescence pigment blemishes comprising administering the extract of claim 6.

21. (New) A method of stimulating proliferation and growth of skin cells and fibroblasts comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

22. (New) A method of stimulating mitochondrial activity of skin cells and fibroblasts comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

23. (New) A cosmetic composition comprising a peptide extract of maca as in claim 9 and at least one cosmetically acceptable excipient.

24. (New) A method of reducing the effects of ageing comprising administering the extract of claim 6.

25. (New) A method of combating the loss of tonicity and/or elasticity of the skin and/or to combat the onset of senescence pigment blemishes comprising administering the extract of claim 9.

26. (New) A method of combating and/or preventing skin ageing, consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 23.

27. (New) A method of combating aggressions chosen from sun, tobacco, pollution and stress consisting of applying to the skin a composition as in claim 23.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein cell metabolism is stimulated.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein metabolism of dermal fibroblasts is stimulated.

30. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein cell energy is stimulated.

31. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein cell metabolism is stimulated.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein metabolism of dermal fibroblasts is stimulated.

33. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein cell energy is stimulated.